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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/831,320	05/07/2001	Walter Gunter	GUNTER-2 (PCT)	2828

25889 7590 05/07/2003

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EXAMINER

AHMAD, NASSER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1772

6

DATE MAILED: 05/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/831,320

Applicant(s)
Gunter

Examiner
Nasser Ahmad

Art Unit
1772



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 10, 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

1. Applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, contrary to the position alleged by Mr. Ed Freedman, no official telephone conference was conducted or made of record by the Examiner. This is because the application file was not at the disposal of the Examiner and further, Mr. Freedman was informed as such. However, in response to the query made by Mr. Freedman, a general response was provided regarding the listing of the names of the chemical abbreviations in the original specification for Examiner's consideration. Thus, no record of the conference was made as the telephone discussion was understood to be unofficial.

2. Claims 14, 18 and 21-26 rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Duncan for reasons of record in paper no. 3, paragraph - 9, mailed on August 8, 2002.

3. Claim 14-26 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pedginski in view of Duncan for reasons of record in paper no. 3, paragraph - 11.

4. Applicant's arguments filed February 10, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Duncan fails to teach the joint coextrusion of the adhesive layer and the release layer. This is not found to be convincing because, as stated in col. 1, lines 62-66, Duncan clearly recites "facing layer (a) which has been compounded with a pressure sensitive adhesive component is coextruded with a release layer (b) which has been compounded with a release agent". This recitation clearly shows that the adhesive layer and the release layer were jointly coextruded.

Similarly, regarding Pedginski, the above grounds of explanation apply a fortiori. This is because, contrary to applicant's argument, Pedginski clearly teaches the joint

Art Unit: 1772

coextrusion of the adhesive layer and the release layer. See abstract and col. 10, lines 42-49.

Thus, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, it remains the Examiner's position that the claimed invention is anticipated or rendered obvious over the prior art discussed above.

5. The amendment filed February 10, 2003 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added/deleted material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: The deletion of "SEP" from the specification, page – 5, as originally filed, is considered to be new matter because addition as deletion of subject matter from the disclosure constitutes new matter.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

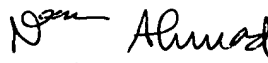
Art Unit: 1772

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nasser Ahmad whose telephone number is 703-308-4424. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30 am to 5 pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 703-308-4251. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.


NASSER AHMAD
PRIMARY EXAMINER

N Ahmad/mn
May 6, 2003